

receiving tape;

driving means for driving [said] the ink ribbon;

control means for controlling said thermal print head; and

detecting means for detecting if [an] the ink ribbon is present or absent in said receiving means and for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the presence [of] or absence of the ink ribbon, said control means [being arranged] acting to control said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation when [an] the ink ribbon is present and said second mode of operation when [no] the ink ribbon is not present, wherein said detecting means is arranged to detect, when said driving means is activated, a characteristic indicative of movement of [said] the ink ribbon to determine if [an] the ink ribbon is present.

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cont.
Sub E^a > 2. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing a label on an image receiving tape, comprising:

a print zone;

a thermal print head [arranged] located at [a] said print zone for printing the label on the image receiving tape as the image receiving tape passes through said print zone, said thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

receiving means for receiving in [the] said first mode of operation a supply of the image receiving tape and a supply of an ink ribbon for providing an image on [said] the image receiving tape, and in [the] said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

detecting means for detecting a characteristic indicative of the presence or

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absence of [an] the ink ribbon and for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, wherein said control means controls said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation when [an] the ink ribbon is present and said second mode of operation when no ink ribbon is present; and

cutting means for separating [a] the printed label from the supply of the image receiving tape.

3. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further

comprising:

a support member to support the ink ribbon, wherein [a support member is provided to support the ink ribbon,] said support member having a first position when the ink ribbon is present and a second position when no ink ribbon is present, said detecting means being [arranged] positioned to detect a characteristic indicative of the position of said support member to determine if the ink ribbon is present or absent.

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Sub E3

4. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

driving means for driving the ink ribbon, wherein said support member is a rotatable support member having gear means, said gear means having a first position in which [the] said gear means is coupled to [the drive] said driving means when [said] the ink ribbon is present and a second position when the ink ribbon is not present, said detecting means being [arranged] positioned to detect a characteristic indicative of whether [the] said gear means is in [the] said first position or [the] said second position.

Claim 5, line 2, change "arranged" to -- positioned --.

Claim 6, line 2, change "arranged" to -- positioned --.

7. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said detecting means is [arranged] positioned to determine if the ink ribbon is present along a portion of [an ink ribbon] a path of the ink ribbon.

8. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said detecting means comprises [a first] an emitting element and a [second] detecting element, wherein [the first] said emitting element is [arranged] positioned to emit a signal which interacts with [said] the ink ribbon when present and said detecting element, depending on whether or not the ink ribbon is present, either receives or does not receive the signal emitted by [the] said emitting element.

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9. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

driving means for driving the ink ribbon, wherein [driving means are provided for driving said ink ribbon and the] said detecting means is [arranged] positioned to detect, when said driving means is activated, a characteristic indicative of movement of [said] the ink ribbon to thereby determine if [an] the ink ribbon is present.

10. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [or 9], further comprising:

a rotatable support member, wherein [said] the ink ribbon is mounted on [a] said rotatable support member, and said detecting means is [arranged] positioned to detect a characteristic indicative of rotational movement of [said] the ink ribbon.

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Claim 11, line 3, change "an" to -- the --; and

line 4, change "arranged" to -- positioned --.

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Claim 12, line 4, change "an" to -- the --.

13. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 10 [, 11 or 12], further comprising:

take up means for taking up the ink ribbon, wherein said rotatable support member is [arranged] positioned to support said take up means [for taking up the ink ribbon], when present, after [said] the ink ribbon has been driven by said driving means past said print head.

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14. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 10 [to 13], further comprising:

a slipping clutch, wherein said driving means includes a driving gear, said rotatable support member is coupled via [a] said slipping clutch to [a] said driving gear [of said driving means], whereby when no ink ribbon is present [the] said support member rotates at the same speed as [the] said driving gear and when the ink ribbon is present [the] said slipping clutch slips so that said rotatable support member rotates at a lower speed than [the] said driving gear.

Claim 15, line 2, ~~between "of" and "ink"~~ insert -- the --; and

~~line 5, between "when" and "ink"~~ insert -- the --.

16. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 11 [to 15], further comprising:

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a reel for the ink ribbon, wherein, in use, [a] said reel [for the ink ribbon] is supported on said rotatable support member, and wherein said detecting means are [arranged] positioned to monitor the speed of rotation of said reel to thereby provide an indication of the speed of rotation of said support member.

Claim 17, line 3, change "arranged" to -- positioned --.

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18. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 11 [to 15], wherein said rotatable support member includes a member, and wherein said [a] member [is provided on said rotatable support member which] rotates [therewith] with said rotatable support member, and said detecting means is [arranged] positioned to detect the rotation of said member to provide an indication of the speed of the rotatable support member.

Claim 19, line 3, change "arranged" to -- positioned --.

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21. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 [,8 or 9], wherein said detecting means comprises a movable member having a first position when [an] the ink ribbon is present and a second position when no ink ribbon is present, and the detecting means is [arranged] positioned to determine the position of said movable member.

Claim 22, line 3, between "of" and "ink" insert -- the --.

23. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [in one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, wherein in [the] said first mode of operation of [the] said print head, [the] said print head energy requirements are at a first level and in [the] said second mode of operation of [the] said print head, [the] said print head energy requirements are at a second level.

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24. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein [the] said print head energy requirements are changed by altering one or more of the following print head operating parameters:

a voltage applied to each printing element of [the] said print head;

the length of time for which each printing element of [the] said print head is activated; and

the number of times that each printing element of [the] said print head is activated for the same set of print data.

25. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein in said first mode of operation, the image receiving tape and the ink ribbon are received in a first cassette and in [the] said second mode of operation, the image receiving tape is received in a second cassette.

26. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 24], wherein in said first mode of operation, the image receiving tape and the ink ribbon are received in separate cassettes and in [the] said second mode of operation, the image receiving tape is received in a cassette.

27. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said first cassette has an aperture in a first location for receiving said support member and [the] said second cassette has an aperture for receiving said support member in a second location such that [the] said first cassette causes the rotatable support member to be in [the] said first position and [the] said second cassette causes the support member to be in [the] said second position.

28. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 1 [, 2 or 9], wherein said detecting means is [arranged] positioned to detect a characteristic indicative of the power consumed by said [drive] driving means, [the drive] said driving means being [arranged] positioned such that the power consumed thereby is greater when the ink ribbon is present as compared to when no ink ribbon is present.

Claim 29, line 2, change "the drive" to -- said driving --.

30. (Amended) A tape printing apparatus as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1,

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further comprising: means for determining when a supply of image receiving tape is first inserted or replaced, whereby the tape printing apparatus is [arranged] positioned so that the mode of operation of [the] said print head is only determined when said means for determining [means] determines that a supply of image receiving tape has been inserted or replaced.

Claim 31, line 5, delete "a", and change "arrangement" to -- means --.

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34. (Amended) A cassette as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 31 [to 33], wherein said housing is provided with an opening through which said markings are detectable.

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36. (Amended) A cassette as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 31 [to 35] in combination with a tape printing apparatus as claimed in claim 17.

37. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing an image on an image receiving tape, comprising:

a thermal print head for printing an image on [said] the image receiving tape, said thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

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receiving means for receiving in [the] said first mode of operation a supply of image receiving tape and a supply of ink ribbon for providing an image on [said] the image receiving tape, and in [the] said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

means for directing the image receiving tape along a first path in [the] said first mode of operation and along a second path in [a] said second mode of operation; and

detecting means for determining if the image receiving tape follows [the] said first or [the] said second path [and] for providing a signal to said control means indicative of

the path of the image receiving tape, said control means being [arranged] positioned to control said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation if the image receiving tape follows [the] said first path and [the] said second mode of operation if the image receiving tape follows [the] said second path.

Sub 38. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing an image on an image receiving tape, comprising:

a thermal print head for printing an image onto [an] the image receiving tape, said thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

receiving means for receiving in [the] said first mode of operation a supply of image receiving tape and a supply of ink ribbon for providing an image on [an] the image receiving tape, and in [the] said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

[drive] driving means for driving the image receiving tape and the ink ribbon, when present, past said thermal print head; and

detecting means for detecting a characteristic indicative of the presence or absence of [an] the ink ribbon and for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, [the] said control means controlling said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation when [an] the ink ribbon is present and [the] said second mode of operation when no ink ribbon is present, wherein said detecting means is arranged to detect a characteristic indicative of the power consumed by said [drive] driving means, said [drive] driving means consuming more power when the ink ribbon is present as compared to when

no ink ribbon is present.

39. (Twice Amended) A tape printing apparatus for printing an image on an image receiving tape, comprising:

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a thermal print head for printing an image on [said] the image receiving tape, said thermal print head having a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation; receiving means for receiving in [the] said first mode of operation a supply of the image receiving tape and a supply of ink ribbon for providing an image on [said] the image receiving tape, and in [the] said second mode of operation a supply of thermally sensitive image receiving tape;

control means for controlling said thermal print head;

[drive] driving means for driving the image receiving tape and [an] the ink ribbon, when present, past said thermal print head; and

detecting means for detecting a characteristic indicative of the presence or absence of [an] the ink ribbon and for providing a signal to said control means indicative of the presence or absence of [an] the ink ribbon, said control means controlling said thermal print head to operate in said first mode of operation when [an] the ink ribbon is present and [the] said second mode of operation when no ink ribbon is present, and said detecting means is [arranged] positioned to detect the load applied to said [drive] driving means, the load applied to said [drive] driving means being greater when [an] the ink ribbon is present as compared to when no ink ribbon is present.

REMARKS

The objection to claims 13, 14, 16-20, 23-27, 30 and 36 under 37 CFR 1.75(c),